

the American Bar Association, and she received bipartisan support in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

She is just the type of person we need in the Federal judiciary, and I am eager for her to begin her new role. I wholeheartedly support this nomination and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Both Judge Kumar and Judge Beckering are extremely qualified and competent judicial nominations that are in front of us today, and I hope everyone will be supporting them as strongly as I am. And I know people in Michigan are very, very proud of both of them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON GAWANDE NOMINATION

All postcloture time has expired. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gawande nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 507 Ex.]

#### YEAS—48

Baldwin	Booker	Carper
Barrasso	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Cantwell	Collins
Blumenthal	Cardin	Coons

Cortez Masto	Leahy	Schatz
Duckworth	Lujan	Schumer
Durbin	Manchin	Shaheen
Gillibrand	Markey	Sinema
Hassan	Menendez	Smith
Heinrich	Merkley	Stabenow
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Tester
Hirono	Murphy	Van Hollen
Kaine	Murray	Warnock
Kelly	Padilla	Warren
King	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wyden

#### NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeven	Sullivan
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Thune
Cassidy	Kennedy	Tillis
Cornyn	Lankford	Toomey
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Romney	Young
Graham	Rubio	
Grassley	Sasse	

#### NOT VOTING—21

Burr	Inhofe	Peters
Capito	Johnson	Portman
Cramer	Lummis	Risch
Daines	McConnell	Rounds
Daines	Moran	Sanders
Feinstein	Osoff	Shelby
Fischer	Paul	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 577, Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 508 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Padilla
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hassan	Murray	

#### NAYS—30

Barrasso	Hagerty	Sasse
Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Blunt	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	Romney	Wicker
Grassley	Rubio	Young

#### NOT VOTING—23

Burr	Graham	Peters
Capito	Inhofe	Portman
Cotton	Johnson	Risch
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	McConnell	Sanders
Ernst	Moran	Shelby
Feinstein	Osoff	Warner
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The yeas are 47, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

## ACT FOR ALS ACT

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my colleague the Senator from Alaska in celebrating some good news. Every now and then, something really good happens here in the Congress of the United States.

Many of us know the story of ALS, a particularly cruel and brutal disease, a disease that attacks the body but not the mind and whose victims, while they steadily lose their ability to control their muscles and their movement, suffer a sort of living death that, until you have seen it up close, it is hard to appreciate just how cruel this disease is.

Last week, 423 of our House colleagues, Members of the House of Representatives, voted to send the ACT for ALS Act here to this Senate. And last night, we here in the Senate unanimously sent that bill to President Biden's desk for his signature.

I have to start, I want to start by thanking my dear friend and colleague the Senator from Alaska. She has been a tireless, passionate, capable advocate, and without her this would not have happened. For those who question whether bipartisanship can still deliver results that matter, this Senator, this bill, this moment proves that it can and it does.

We are grateful to our lead cosponsors over in the House, Congressman QUIGLEY and Congressman FORTENBERRY.

Frankly, the story behind this moment is the incredible advocacy of the ALS community. They are the reason that the bill got drafted, the bill got introduced, the bill got marked up, the bill passed the House, and that here in the Senate some obstructions were overcome with remarkable force and swiftness. I am just briefly going to mention the tenacity and the strength and the capability of some of the folks who have been my role models in this work, and then I am going to yield to my friend and colleague from Alaska, and she will also speak about it.

I just do also briefly want to say that ACT for ALS is not just some resolution. It is not just some commemorative act. This will deliver \$100 million through a newly authorized FDA rare neurodegenerative disease grant program. It will fund critical research. It will improve coordination between the Federal, academic, and private sector researchers. And more than anything else, it will give people hope.

When I think of this work, Dan Tate is the man who first comes to mind, and Dan, like me, is a graduate of Amherst College and a spirited and capable and soulful person—one of Washington's most skilled lobbyists, someone who worked in the Clinton administration and worked for a Member of the House—and his personal advocacy has meant a huge amount to me, as has the engagement by Brian Wallach and so many others.

And I have a half dozen other folks of whom I want to speak, but, first, I

think simple decency suggests I should yield the floor to my friend and colleague from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as my friend from Connecticut has pointed out, there are—

Mr. COONS. Point of personal clarification: Delaware.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Oh, my goodness, my soul.

Mr. President, may I strike that erroneous introduction?

Mr. COONS. Born in Connecticut.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank my dear friend from Delaware—always Delaware—but truly a friend; a friend on many different issues, but a man whom I have come to know is motivated not by the politics of what goes on in this body but by the passion and his interest in doing good, doing good policy and doing good things for people.

And what we are speaking to today, recognizing the significant passage of the ACT for ALS Act that happened last evening unanimously, as he has pointed out, that this is not only good for the body, if you will, to say we were able to move good legislation forward, good policy legislation forward, but this is a gift. This is a gift of hope for those who live with ALS, for those families who are part of that journey of those who live with ALS.

ALS, as Senator COONS has noted, is an awful, awful disease. Some would suggest, and I certainly would, that it is probably the worst disease to be afflicted with, when your body literally closes in on you while your mind is still active and vibrant.

I have a very personal connection to ALS. I think many of us have very personal connections to ALS. I wish that we didn't have these personal connections to this hideous disease, but we do, and that connection allows us to learn and understand a little bit more about it.

And I think the most heartbreaking thing that I realized, when my family member was diagnosed with ALS, my cousin's husband, was that there was no treatment. There was no hope. There was no hope.

I am not suggesting that the ACT for ALS is the end-all be-all. I wish that we could stand here and say that. It is not, but what it is, is a glimmer of hope.

I want to read just a couple sentences from an email that I received last evening when I was able to share this good news that this bill was passing unanimously through this body, and my cousin Jen says:

The passage of this bill will bring real, tangible hope to people living with ALS and those to be diagnosed. In this ALS world, right now, there are no effective treatments. All we have is hope. This bill changes everything. It will bring real, tangible hope and treatments to people living with ALS. We have never had that in this disease.

We haven't found the cure, we haven't found the treatment, but what

we are providing today is that first step forward, a tangible step forward to the hope, because every day—every day—those who are living with ALS and their loved ones, who live through this disease with them, have to hope and pray every single day that today is going to be the day. Today is going to be the day that we can slow this, that we can halt this.

There are some extraordinary heroes that have been involved with this fight over the years. They are everyday people. They got into it not because they were paid lobbyists. Most of them got into it because they had lived through ALS. They had lost a loved one to this disease, and rather than to give up and give in and be too tired to carry on, they said: I am going to commit so that no other families have to feel this helplessness.

And so you have got some amazing people. You have got a group out there, the I AM ALS team—extraordinary, extraordinary advocates.

Senator COONS has mentioned Brian Wallach and Dan Tate. The two of them lead I AM ALS. You have got Megan Miller, Deb Paust, Sandy Morris, Christa Thompson, Nicole Cimbura, Becky Mourey, Michael Lecker, Shelly Hoover, Michelle Lorenz, Mayuri and Mayank Saxena—so many, so many more who were part of that effort.

The I AM ALS organization, working with the ALS Association, working with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and so many others were so critical in moving this forward. Think about what happened.

This was introduced over here in the Senate. We looked this up. It was May 25. May 25. And to get over 60 cosponsors in the U.S. Senate on any kind of a measure—I wish that the Senator from Delaware and I could say that we single-handedly got every single one of those cosponsors, but it was these advocates. It was these grassroots individuals. It was everybody that I just named—Dan and Megan and Jenny and Deb and Sandy, who made these calls, who were relentless.

And when the politics did intervene, they were unleashed and passionate in their advocacy. And I think this is a good lesson to us, that when those who are intimately and passionately involved, that you can make a difference, you can move legislation. You can move mountains.

The last thing I want to say before I turn back to my colleague here is that there are a lot of people who are not part of an organization but who have just felt compelled to speak up.

We heard voices from around my State: Marcel from Sitka; Douglas from Anchorage; a gentleman by the name of Mike, also from Anchorage. The calls, the letters, the emails that we got—I know all of our colleagues received the same as well.

So this, again, was an effort that was so personal to so many, but the leadership that I think we saw come together with Brian Wallach, his wife Sandra—